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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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**FISCAL YEAR 2014
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
FAMILY DAY CARE HOME SPONSOR MEMORANDUM #16**

TO: Family Day Care Home Sponsors

FROM: Marla J. Moss, Assistant Director
Office of School Support Services

DATE: May 14, 2014

SUBJECT: **Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2014 Release**

ACTION: **Use new Census Data for tiering determinations for new providers and reclassify current providers as requested**

The purpose of this memorandum is to allow additional flexibility in using census data for area eligibility determinations in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Summer Seamless Option (SSO). These additional flexibilities are effective immediately.

CACFP regulations state specifically that census data may be used to determine area eligibility for family day care homes for Tier 1. Area eligibility is established when census data indicate at least 50 percent of the children residing in the area are members of households that meet the income standards for free or reduced-price meals (7 CFR 226.15(f) and 225.6(c)(3)(B)). Previous policy guidance has identified the Census Block Groups (CBGs) to be the geographical unit used to assess eligibility for CACFP when using census data (See Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Family Day Care Home Operational Memorandum #10 Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2013 Release FY 2013).

Occasionally, a potential CACFP day care home is determined not to be in an area that is eligible. In some cases, however, the family day care home is located immediately adjacent to an eligible area based on census data. This proximity to an eligible census area suggests that the children residing in the area from which the family day care home would most likely draw participants from would have a likelihood of similar census demographics to the adjacent area. In recognizing that likelihood and by allowing additional flexibility in the use of census data to establish area eligibility, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) can ensure area eligibility determinations accurately identify areas in which poor economic

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conditions exist. Upon release of this memo, CACFP family day care homes may now be determined area eligible using either CBGs or Census Tracts. Census Tracts are geographical units that consist of one or more of the CBGs. Therefore, using these flexibilities, CACFP family day care homes are considered area eligible if:

- 50 percent or more of the children in a Census Tract are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals
- 50 percent or more of the children in a CBG are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals
- The percentage of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals in up to three adjacent CBGs, when averaged, is 50 percent or more, provided that at least 40 percent of children in each of the combined CBGs are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, as described above

Data Availability

The availability of Census Tracts and combined CBGs to determine eligibility is effective with release of this memo. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has provided the data to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), which has included the data in their CACFP and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) mapping websites at <http://www.fairdata2000.com/CACFP>. The FRAC map may be used to determine eligibility.

If you have any questions about the requirements, please contact MDE's CACFP office at 517-373-7391.